

DIARY NOTES

DD/S

23 December 1963

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1. I asked [REDACTED] to get in touch with [REDACTED] and to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that we can communicate with the Director during his travels over the holidays. (These arrangements had been completed by the close of business today.)

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2. At the Executive Committee Meeting this morning the Director gave us a brief rundown on his recent visit to Vietnam, the gist of which is that he believes the United States is confronted with a most difficult, but not impossible, situation and that the chances of success may be less than 50-50. He was critical of intelligence received through our military forces in Vietnam because such information comes primarily from Vietnamese sources without auditing or double-checking. He asked Dick Helms to look into the possibility of beefing up the Saigon station considerably for the next three to four months. He thought that this could be done by sending out on TDY as many old Vietnamese hands as possible to run a parallel intelligence operation for the next ninety days or so.

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3. [REDACTED] telephoned regarding the following:

a. He said that the DD/S&T was withdrawing his concurrence in the draft Headquarters Notice on incentive contracting. I said that they were merely joining the chorus and that I thought I would have to take this matter forward to General Carter for a policy decision.

b. Jack also said that he had talked to [REDACTED] about complaints received at the Research and Development Review Board Meeting on 19 December concerning our R&D contracting. He said that Bud was anxious to avoid the Board's becoming a vehicle to handle this type of complaint. In this particular situation they propose to ask any of the Board members who have a complaint to register it in writing. They will then distill any such memoranda received and will send them along to us so that we can take appropriate action.

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4. Gates Lloyd and I reviewed with Mr. Kirkpatrick and John Clarke our proposals for cost reductions in the DD/S area. I think that this went all right and that we can probably plan on a program approximating that which I outlined in my memorandum of 15 December 1963 to the DCI, subject: "President's Memorandum on Government Economy."

LKW:jrf

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